



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN DEBATES

Tuesday, the 28th November, 1950

OFFICIAL REPORT

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Tuesday, the 28th November, 1950

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met in the Assembly Chamber, Karachi, at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang a member of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

MOTION RE. SANCTION TO THE ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 1950-51

The Honourable Dr. Mahmud Husain (East Bengal : Muslim) : Sir, I beg to move :

"Resolved that the Assembly do accord sanction in pursuance of Rule 73 (1) of the Constituent Assembly Rules to the Estimated expenditure of the Assembly for the year 1951-52 as shown in the Statement below prepared by the Finance Committee :—

Statement

	Rs.
Pay of Officers ..	3,86,000
Pay of Establishment ..	2,17,000
Allowances, Honoraria, etc. ..	7,18,000
Other charges ..	1,12,000
Charges in England ..	20,000
TOTAL	14,53,000 "

Sir, I need hardly make a speech on this subject. The Budget has been prepared by the Finance Committee and I, as a member of that Committee, am placing this Budget before the House. The Budget has been prepared on conventional lines and there is no serious departure from the past. There is an increase of about one lakh of rupees in the total expenditure and that is largely due to the appointment of two officers. There are no other changes. It will be possible to hold the session during the next year for a period of at least five months with the money provided here and we shall be able to pay the salaries of the officers and the establishment. We shall also be able to spend on books for the Library and all other normal needs of the Assembly can be met if the Budget is passed.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang) : Motion moved :

"Resolved that the Assembly do accord sanction in pursuance of Rule 73 (1) of the Constituent Assembly Rules to the Estimated expenditure of the Assembly for the year 1951-52 as shown in the Statement below prepared by the Finance Committee :—

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Mr. Nur Ahmed (East Bengal : Muslim) : Sir, I wish to make some observations on the motion under consideration. There is a great increase in the expenditure and only the President and the Members of the Constituent Assembly are responsible for this expenditure. Thus, the Members have a very heavy duty in scrutinising this expenditure. I find that full details and explanations have not been given and therefore I find it very difficult to analyse every item of expenditure covered by this motion. I find that as compared with 1949-50 the expenditure has been more than doubled. It is a great point to be considered as to why the expenditure is increasing by leaps and bounds and why it has been doubled during the last one year ? I find from the details supplied to us that the Secretary of the Constituent Assembly is drawing Rs. 4,000 a month. I remember that there is a recommendation of the Pakistan Pay Commission that the salary of a Secretary shall not exceed Rs. 2,300 a month and in no case it will be more than Rs. 3,000. I find that this recommendation has not been given effect to. Sir, Pakistan is a very poor country and Pakistan is an Islamic State. Therefore, it is the duty of the Members to see that every single pie should be spent for nation-building purposes and for raising the standard of living of the masses. No unnecessary expenditure should be incurred. I know that there is a Standing Finance Committee to look into the expenditure of this Department and the Honourable Mover of this motion is a prominent member of that Committee. May I ask him what is the cause of the increase in this expenditure ? I find that there are three Research Officers, but we do not know what sort of work they do and what is the outcome of the researches made by them. We find that in the first volume of the Select Constitutions of the World there is a preface. In that preface there are statements which I can style as libellous against Islam, its Prophet and even the Holy Quran. Any non-Muslim who reads this preface will carry a wrong impression about Islam. In fact, one of the non-Muslim members of this House after reading that preface remarked to me : "Up to this time I was under the impression that Islam was a most democratic religion on earth, but after going through this preface I find that it is not so." I suggest, therefore, that a Committee of the members of the Constituent Assembly should be formed to go into the questions of the level of the expenditure, structure and administration of this Department. It is in the best interests of Pakistan that expenditure should not be increased and lavishly incurred in this way.

The Honourable Dr. Mahmud Husain (East Bengal : Muslim) : Sir, as I explained in the very beginning, I have placed this Budget before the House as a member of the Finance Committee and on behalf of the Finance Committee of the House and not as a member of the Government. However, the criticism which has been made of this Budget by Mr. Nur Ahmed centres on what he terms "extraordinary increase" in the expenditure since 1949-1950. In 1949-1950, the total expenditure came to Rs. 7,76,000. Now if the figures which have been supplied to the Honourable Members are gone into, it would be clear that very largely the increase is due to the increase in allowances and honoraria. This means that now we visualize longer sessions—not only visualize but recently there have been longer sessions—more frequent sessions than was the case in the year 1949-1950, and the actual expenditure therefore, which was Rs. 3,26,000 in 1949-50, will now come to Rs. 7,18,000 ; we think that the Legislature will meet more often and for longer sessions.

There has also been an increase in the number of officers ; some important officers have been added to the staff. To give an example, there is the Chief Draftsman, who is a highly paid officer and who has now been appointed. Now this expenditure was not necessary in the year 1949-50, when the work of constitution-making had not been taken in hand. It is only now that we require a Chief Draftsman. He has been appointed and his salary has to be

provided. An Officer on Special Duty to assist him will similarly be there. In this way more officers have been appointed recently and, therefore, naturally, it would mean more money.

Then perhaps members will also remember that at present not only the Legislature is meeting more often but there are many more meetings of Committees. Committees which were appointed long ago but had not been functioning, or not functioning vigorously, are now working and holding meetings. All this means expenditure.

Sir, due to all these reasons and also due largely to the implementation of the Pay Commission's report so far as our non-gazetted staff is concerned—it meant a big increase—the expenditure now is about double of what it was in the year 1949-1950. But I think, Sir, it is inescapable. As such I request the House to pass the Budget.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Sind : Muslim) : Sir, there is one point which I would like to raise about this.

Some Honourable Members : You cannot say anything now.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : I did not expect that the Government would give such an immediate reply to this debate ; otherwise I would have. . . .

Mr. Chairman (*Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang*) : The Honourable Member has missed the bus. He cannot be allowed to speak now.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : The bus is still there.

Mr. Chairman (*Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang*) : He cannot be allowed to speak now.

The question is that the motion in the following words be adopted :

"Resolved that the Assembly do accord sanction in pursuance of Rule 73 (1) of the Constituent Assembly Rules to the Estimated expenditure of the Assembly for the year 1951-52 as shown in the Statement below prepared by the Finance Committee :—

Statement

	Rs.
Pay of Officers ..	3,86,000
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TOTAL	14,53,000 "

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman (*Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang*) : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan then adjourned *sine die*.